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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Finland

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-seventh session from 1 to 12 May 2017. The review of Finland was held at the 6th meeting, on 3 May 2017. The delegation of Finland was headed by the Minister of Social Affairs and Health of Finland, Pirkko Mattila. At its 10th meeting, held on 5 May 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on Finland.

2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Finland: Portugal, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Finland:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/FIN/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/FIN/2 and Corr.1);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/FIN/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Finland through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation of Finland emphasized the importance of the universal periodic review and the active role played by civil society in the review process. The Government had recently made significant changes in the national monitoring and implementation of human rights, including the establishment of the independent Human Rights Centre and the government network of contact persons for fundamental and human rights. The Centre, its Human Rights Delegation and the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman together formed the national human rights institution, which had been granted A status in 2015.

6. The report for the universal periodic review had been drafted simultaneously with the second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights. With reference to the Human Rights Report from 2014, she drew attention to the long-standing priorities of the country's human rights policy, namely the importance of the free and active participation of civil society in all spheres of life, non-discrimination, openness and inclusion of all people, with particular focus on the rights of women and girls, indigenous peoples, minorities and persons with disabilities. Finland continued to systematically promote economic, social and cultural rights. Those priorities formed a strong basis for Finland when standing for membership in the 2021 Human Rights Council election. She reaffirmed her country's strong support for freedom of speech and freedom of expression, noting that Finland was celebrating the centenary of its independence in 2017. Major structural reforms were being planned in social welfare and health care, and in local and regional government. She reaffirmed the Government's commitment to promoting work-related migration and to granting international protection to those in need, as well as to zero tolerance of racist speech and other hate speech. Finland had created a new government anti-trafficking

coordination structure and would continue to actively promote and protect everyone's freedom of religion or belief and to support the work of human rights defenders.

7. With respect to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Finland was committed to a human rights-based approach to development commitments and focused on the rights of women and girls, as well as strengthening developing countries' own economies and democratic societies. The report for the universal periodic review contained voluntary commitments regarding the development budget and funding for the least developed countries, as well as the commitment to submit a voluntary interim report in 2019. In the second review cycle, Finland had accepted 71 of the 78 recommendations received and another four in part. Moreover, in 2014, it had submitted a voluntary interim implementation report to the Council.

8. Responding to the written questions that had been submitted in advance, she highlighted the results of the first national action plan to prevent violence against women, the number and financing of shelters and other services for victims of violence, such as a 24/7 helpline, legal advice, witness support and online services, a variety of social services, and police reporting procedures. She mentioned the 2016 guidelines on creating a local treatment chain to help victims of sexual violence and a pilot project for publicly funded crisis centres. Other measures would be laid out in a four-year plan on the implementation of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention). Action to prevent violence against women was further strengthened by the Government Action Plan for Gender Equality.

9. The Government aimed to strengthen the participation of the Sámi and other local actors in the use and management of renewable natural resources in the Sámi Homeland. The new Act on the State Forest Enterprise included measures to ensure the rights of the Sámi to participate in land use management planning on State-owned land in the Sámi Homeland. The Government would decide later in 2017 whether it would pursue ratification of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169).

10. Turning to the right to self-determination in the care of older persons and how the provisions of the National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights promoted their rights, she noted that Finland was currently in the process of preparing extensive legislation on the strengthening of the right to self-determination of social welfare and health care clients and on reducing the use of measures restricting that right. Responding to the question on the definition of rape, she said that the legislation as a whole showed that the provisions were applied in cases where the victim had not given consent.

11. Concerning the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life, Finland had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2016 and a coordination mechanism had been set up in 2017. The new advisory board for the rights of persons with disabilities was composed of 18 members, 8 of whom were persons with disabilities. Furthermore, a human rights committee of persons with disabilities had been established as a permanent division under the Human Rights Delegation. She provided details on the right to vote and stand for election of persons with disabilities. Responding to another question, she said that the Government had decided not to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

12. In an effort to restrict the number of manifestations of racism and xenophobia, particularly on the Internet, the Government had recently decided to allocate more resources to police activities for the prevention of hate speech on the Internet and the investigation of related offences. Turning to another question, she noted that a study on the rights and experiences of intersex children would be initiated in 2017, after which the Government would decide on relevant measures. In response to another question, she said that, according to a recent government proposal, the maximum duration for keeping remand prisoners in police facilities would be shortened to seven days and the conditions for placement would be tightened. As for the National Non-Discrimination and Equality Tribunal and its ability to award compensation to victims, she noted that the Non-discrimination Act of 2015 provided for sanctions and remedies in a comprehensive

manner. Turning to the issue of measures to prevent hate crime and tackle bullying, she drew attention to the fact that the Non-discrimination Act placed a legal obligation on authorities, schools and employers to promote equality and to take active steps to prevent discrimination and harassment.

13. In answer to the questions on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, particularly unaccompanied minors and their integration, the Minister elaborated on legislative changes that had been made to ensure the management of the increased number of asylum seekers. She also referred to the measures set out in the Government's Integration Programme for 2016-2019 to support immigrants' ability to secure an income, which was a requirement in order for other family members to be granted a residence permit. That requirement could limit the possibilities for family reunification and thus the integration of an unaccompanied minor. However, exceptions might be made to the requirement if it was clearly in the child's best interest.

II. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

14. During the interactive dialogue, 70 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

15. Lebanon noted the presentation of the national report. It expressed appreciation for efforts made by the Government to fight discrimination, racism and xenophobia through the adoption of legislation and policies.

16. Libya expressed appreciation for the fact that the national report included monitoring of progress achieved since the second review cycle. It was concerned about cases of violence against women and children, which were mentioned in the report.

17. Lithuania congratulated Finland on its efforts across a wide range of human rights issues. It commended Finland for adopting the second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights 2017-2019 and supported efforts to combat violence against women.

18. The Maldives commended Finland for the creation of the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman and the National Non-Discrimination and Equality Tribunal as measures to ensure that the rights of its citizens were not infringed.

19. Mexico welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights 2017-2019, particularly the inclusion of projects on human rights education. It thanked Finland for sharing lessons learned on the prevention of domestic violence against women and children.

20. Mongolia congratulated Finland for implementing most of the recommendations from the previous review cycle on ratifying human rights treaties. It appreciated the efforts Finland had made to further protect the rights of children and persons with disabilities. It noted, however, that violence against women remained the main human rights issue.

21. Montenegro asked what policies had been developed to address all forms of discrimination and violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence. It also asked Finland to provide information on results achieved in implementing the action plan to prevent hate speech and racism, as well as to foster social inclusion.

22. Mozambique commended Finland for the implementation of recommendations from the previous cycle, which had informed the preparation of its second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights 2017-2019. It appreciated the fact that Finland had ratified almost all of the main United Nations and Council of Europe human rights treaties.

23. Namibia noted that Finland was an example of good practice on issues such as access to information and free press, and that it was ranked by Reporters Without Borders as one of the world's top achievers. It applauded initiatives and achievements in strengthening equality between men and women.

24. The Netherlands commended Finland for ratifying the Istanbul Convention and establishing a committee to prepare a plan for its implementation. It appreciated steps taken to legalize same-sex marriage as of March 2017.

25. Norway congratulated Finland for its commitment to complying with international obligations and promoting human rights and transparency. With regard to the rights of indigenous people, it commended Finland for the government-commissioned study that had been published in 2017 in support of the discussion on Sami rights.

26. Pakistan expressed appreciation for the efforts of Finland to implement the recommendations received during the previous review. It considered the second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights to be an important milestone. It commended the objective set by Finland to increase its development budget in the long term to 0.7 per cent of gross national income.

27. Peru expressed appreciation for progress made, in particular with regard to the rights of the Sami people, and the strong commitment of Finland to international cooperation in the area of support for development.

28. The Philippines welcomed the ratification by Finland of several human rights instruments, including the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), but regretted that it would not ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The Philippines appreciated the efforts made to align the country's domestic legal framework with its human rights obligations, and commended the efforts of Finland to combat hate speech, extremist movements and violent extremism.

29. Portugal commended Finland for its efforts to improve the rights of women, such as the adoption of the Government Action Plan Gender for Equality.

30. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the adoption of the second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights 2017-2019, which included recommendations made by human rights mechanisms and the results of the evaluation of the previous action plan. It noted concerns by certain human rights mechanisms regarding violence against women.

31. Romania expressed appreciation for the participation of Finland in the universal periodic review and commended it for the measures it had adopted to comply with accepted recommendations in the current cycle.

32. The Russian Federation was concerned about the high indicators of human trafficking in Finland and the detention of juvenile offenders together with adults in correctional facilities.

33. Rwanda welcomed the continued efforts of Finland to promote and protect human rights, including through the implementation of its second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights and its efforts to combat discrimination, hate speech and related intolerance.

34. Serbia welcomed the most recent institutional developments with regard to the promotion of equality and combating discrimination and encouraged Finland to ensure accountability for all expressions of racism, xenophobia, hate speech and for extremist rhetoric in the public sphere.

35. Sierra Leone commended Finland for establishing its second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights and on the enactment into national law of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. It noted the implementation in 2016 of the Government Action Plan against Human Trafficking.

36. Slovenia welcomed the new National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights, the ratification of international human rights instruments by Finland and the services available to older persons in Finland.

37. South Africa noted with appreciation the efforts made by Finland to implement the recommendations it had accepted during its previous reviews, in particular efforts aimed at

combating racism and xenophobia. However, it remained concerned about the continuing gender-based wage gap in Finland.

38. Spain congratulated Finland on the ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. It was concerned that although Finland ratified the Istanbul Convention, gender violence remained a problem in the country.

39. Sri Lanka commended Finland for the high percentage of women's participation in the State legislature and recognized the efforts to strengthen gender equality, including the adoption of the Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Act on Equality between Women and Men.

40. The State of Palestine welcomed the steps taken by Finland to implement the previous review recommendations and its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights. It also welcomed the efforts of Finland to combat discrimination, including the National Action Plan to combat discrimination and promote equality.

41. Sweden was concerned that although Finland was ranked as one of the most gender equal countries in the world, domestic violence and sexual abuse against women remained widespread. It was also concerned that transgender persons and intersex children continued to face discrimination.

42. Timor-Leste welcomed the establishment of national human rights institutions, the Government Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Government Action Plan against Human Trafficking. Timor-Leste also wished to highlight the new project in Finland to collect information about forced marriage.

43. Turkey welcomed the adoption of the Action Plan for Gender Equality, the adoption of the National Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and the drafting of the Government Action Plan against Human Trafficking. Turkey was concerned that discriminatory and xenophobic comments had become more common.

44. Ukraine commended the significant improvements to the national legislative framework provided by the adoption of laws and programmes for the protection of the rights of children, vulnerable persons and persons with disabilities. It also welcomed the legislative amendments on the prevention of human trafficking and on combating violence against women.

45. The United Kingdom welcomed the ratification by Finland of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Protocol of 2014 to the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930, and the adoption of the 2016-2017 Government Action Plan against Human Trafficking.

46. The United States of America congratulated Finland for its efforts in combating discrimination and trafficking in persons and encouraged it to take steps to reduce the number of religiously motivated hate crimes and ensure equal access for persons with disabilities.

47. Uruguay praised the progress achieved with regard to the commitments made by Finland to consider alternatives to the detention of asylum seekers and regular migrants.

48. Uzbekistan noted with satisfaction the legislative and administrative measures to promote and protect human rights adopted by Finland over the past few years.

49. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed concern about challenges related to the increase in and propagation of increasingly extreme racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia, especially against Roma, Somalis and on the Internet. It also expressed concern about the increase in hate speech regarding immigration and asylum seekers.

50. Albania welcomed progress made in the promotion of human rights, in particular the establishment of the second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights with a focus on education, equality and non-discrimination. It also welcomed major structural reforms in social welfare and health care.

51. Algeria congratulated Finland on the adoption of the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Radicalization and Extremism, which aimed to combat hate speech and prevent hate crimes. It also welcomed the establishment of the government plan of action for persons with disabilities.

52. Angola noted with appreciation the progress accomplished in the legislation on social protection for persons with disabilities. Nonetheless, it noted with concern the high number of cases of violence against women and children, especially those from minorities.

53. Argentina congratulated Finland on the adoption of its second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights 2017-2019.

54. Armenia welcomed the establishment of the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman. It encouraged Finland to take further steps to strengthen the human dignity of children and mutual respect between children and their parents in order to prevent violence against children.

55. Australia commended the progress made in the field of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. However, it was concerned that the Act on the Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals still included a requirement that persons must be sterilized or otherwise infertile before gender reassignment could be legally recognized.

56. The head of the delegation of Finland emphasized the fact that the National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights focused on fundamental and human rights education, equality and non-discrimination, the right of individuals and groups to self-determination, and fundamental rights and digitalization. Highlighting the measures that were being taken to prevent and combat violence against women, she highlighted the fact that the purpose was to ensure the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and ensure the provision of specific social and health services for victims of violence.

57. The delegation explained that the new non-discrimination law widened protection against discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation and included protection against discrimination in all areas of life. Following the introduction of gender-neutral marriage, which had been the result of a citizens' initiative in Finland, the Act on the Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals had been amended. The abolition of the infertility requirement was not included in the current Government's legislative plan. A preliminary understanding on a Nordic Sámi Convention had been reached; it underlined the participation and self-determination of the Sámi. Moreover, the Government was taking measures to create communities free from racism and discrimination by placing emphasis on open dialogue, inter alia, through the Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations. In addition, the Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech online, which had been published by Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Microsoft and the European Commission, was currently being implemented.

58. The delegation stated that the definition of rape contained in national legislation was compatible with the Istanbul Convention and did not require violence or use of force. Finland had a comprehensive legal framework on hate crime and hate speech, which were regulated mainly in the Criminal Code. According to current law on prisons, juveniles under 18 years of age should be detained separately from adults, as long as it was not against their interest. Provisions on gender-based violence and violence against children had been under constant revision. Finland has criminalized sexual harassment and stalking and had enhanced the protection of victims.

59. The delegation noted that, under the first programme to implement the national Roma policy, progress had been made, especially on education of the Roma. Preparations for a new programme would be made in 2017. A survey on the health and well-being of the Roma and the relevant services was currently being conducted. A specific State budget allocation had been earmarked for providing culturally sensitive social and health services in Sámi in the Sámi Homeland. With respect to the key projects of the Government, €40 million had been allocated to children and families, while €30 million had been allocated to developing services for the elderly.

60. The delegation described the measures that were being taken to prohibit and reduce corporal punishment and other violence against children. With regard to the best interest of intersex infants, increasing attention was being paid to the information provided to parents on the child's development and the right to self-determination. Discussions on that topic were ongoing. On child protection measures, the Finnish Child Welfare Act stressed that the best interest of the child must be taken into consideration in all social welfare actions. Taking a child into custody was a last resort.

61. The delegation elaborated on police activities with respect to violence against women and support for victims. As for countering hate crimes, racism and xenophobia, the Government had allocated €10 million to the police in 2016. Furthermore, a new National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Radicalization and Extremism had been prepared in 2016. With respect to activities to counter trafficking in human beings, the Government had adopted its Action Plan against Human Trafficking 2016-2017. The delegation emphasized the importance of the creation and further development of a national referral mechanism and of anti-trafficking training.

62. The delegation described the government action plan on asylum policy and legislative and other procedural changes in the field of asylum. All asylum applications were assessed individually and all aspects of the case and relevant country of origin information was taken into account. The law on detention of asylum seekers and other foreigners contained strict preconditions for the detention of minors: unaccompanied children could only be detained if they were over 15 years of age and had been issued with an enforceable removal decision. Since 2017, the law had provided for a new precautionary measure, namely the obligation for an alien to stay in a specific reception centre, which further reduced the need to detain minors.

63. The delegation stated that human rights had been included in the new primary school curriculum since 2014, with the aim of teaching, respecting, protecting, promoting and implementing human rights at all levels. Furthermore, the recommendations of a study conducted in 2014 on democracy and human rights in teacher education had been implemented in 2015. Relevant in-service training had started in 2016 and would be evaluated in 2017.

64. A working group had been set up in 2017 to review the system of representatives for unaccompanied minors, and the Integration Act was being redrafted in the light of a regional reform. In that context, the Government would review the governance of the housing and support provided for unaccompanied minors who had a residence permit, while taking into account the best interest of the child and the possibility for the minor to stay in the same region before and after receiving the residence permit. Furthermore, measures were being taken to increase transparency on the gender pay gap. Moreover, Finland had ratified the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in 2014 and was currently focusing on studies, capacity-building, dialogue and remedies in that regard.

65. The Government was drafting a proposal to Parliament to accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and for Finland to recognize in full the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances. Finland actively monitored reservations made to international human rights treaties and objected to reservations deemed to be incompatible with the object and purpose of a treaty. Finland had valid reservations to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Nonetheless, the necessity of maintaining the reservations and the possibility of withdrawing them were reviewed periodically.

66. Azerbaijan applauded the special legislative and institutional measures the Government had taken in response to the universal periodic review recommendations on enhancing anti-discrimination action.

67. Bangladesh appreciated the central values and goals of equality and non-discrimination in Finnish society and the TRUST project, through which unaccompanied minors, stakeholders and care practitioners worked together to find solutions for an inclusive society. Bangladesh commended Finland for the legislative amendments, action plans and various projects it had introduced in order to combat violence against women.

68. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed steps taken to further enhance a strong foundation for the protection of human rights, in particular the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

69. Botswana welcomed the Action Plan for Gender Equality and amendments to the legislation on sexual offences. However, it was concerned about the high incidence of domestic violence, challenges in combating trafficking and the persistence of discrimination against persons with disabilities, immigrants and minority groups.

70. Brazil commended Finland for its Non-discrimination Act and the designation of the Parliamentary Ombudsman as the national preventive mechanism against torture. It noted, however, that the Criminal Code continued to define rape according to the degree of violence of the perpetrator.

71. Bulgaria commended Finland for its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

72. Canada commended Finland for its continued commitment to improve respect for human rights and its efforts to strive for the principles of non-discrimination, equal opportunities and transparency.

73. Chile appreciated the 2013 Human Rights Strategy of the Foreign Service of Finland. It was concerned about the lack of progress on the ratification of the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), and wished to know whether Finland was considering acceding to that instrument and, if so, how the Sami people would participate in the accession process.

74. China welcomed the commitment of Finland to meeting its targets for development assistance. It noted with concern that the Roma and Sami minorities still faced discrimination in education, employment and housing owing to racism, xenophobia and anti-immigrant sentiment, which was on the rise.

75. Colombia highlighted the high percentage of women in Parliament, Government and among Finnish representatives in the European Parliament. It also highlighted the revision of the Aliens Act, which affected unaccompanied minors and family reunification.

76. Côte d'Ivoire noted the legislative provisions that had been adopted in Finland regarding gender equality and the care of persons with disabilities. Côte d'Ivoire encouraged the Government to strengthen its efforts to guarantee universal human rights in the country, particularly for minorities, migrants and asylum seekers.

77. Cuba highlighted actions taken to comply with the previous review recommendations relating to human rights treaties, such as the ratification by Finland of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It congratulated Finland on its commitment to exceeding the budget for development, including the funding target of 0.2 per cent of gross national income to the least developed countries.

78. Egypt expressed concern regarding the increase in Finland of hate speech, xenophobia, Islamophobia and racist and aggressive acts, especially against migrants and asylum seekers. It also noted that the increased number of hate crimes might jeopardize social relations.

79. Estonia welcomed the ratification by Finland of several United Nations human rights instruments and of the Istanbul Convention on violence against women, as well as its efforts to tackle discrimination, hate speech and hate crime. It acknowledged the contribution Finland made to international development policy.

80. France welcomed the importance attributed by Finland to human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the development of a National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights, in line with previous review recommendations.

81. Georgia noted with appreciation that Finland was a signatory to most international conventions. It welcomed the ratification by Finland of several human rights instruments

since the previous universal periodic review and the adoption of its second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights.

82. Germany welcomed the positive steps Finland had taken with respect to the recommendations made during the previous review, its commitment to protecting human rights at both the national and international levels and its ratification of several conventions.

83. Greece congratulated Finland on the significant progress it had made in the field of human rights since its second review and encouraged it to continue its efforts to address violence against women and to assist women victims of violence.

84. Guatemala took note of the significant progress achieved by Finland. It was, however, concerned at reports indicating that the new Finnish Forestry Act had eliminated several provisions on the protection of the rights of the Sami people.

85. Honduras welcomed the action Finland had taken to implement the recommendations from the previous review. However, it was concerned that Finland was not yet a party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

86. Hungary commended Finland for the preparation of the second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights. It was concerned that persons belonging to certain ethnic and religious minorities and persons with disabilities continued to face discrimination.

87. Iceland congratulated Finland for the inclusive preparation process of the national report and welcomed the 2015 revision of the Act on Equality between Women and Men. It noted that Finland had a high percentage of women victims of violence.

88. India welcomed the National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights and appreciated the fact that Finland acknowledged its growing sociopolitical polarization. India encouraged Finland to address the issue of discrimination against persons with disabilities, especially women and girls.

89. Indonesia welcomed the launch of the second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights and commended Finland for its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its establishment of the new Non-Discrimination Act.

90. The Islamic Republic of Iran regretted that Finland had not taken effective measures to eliminate discrimination and violence against women and children, particularly those from ethnic and religious minorities, and noted with concern the legislative changes affecting refugees and migrants.

91. Iraq commended Finland for the high representation of women in Parliament and in Government, as well as among its representatives in the European Parliament. Iraq also commended Finland for the establishment of a national human rights institution.

92. Ireland commended Finland for its progress on human rights since its previous review and for its consistent backing of international human rights institutions, including through significant financial support. Ireland welcomed the amendment of sexual offences legislation since the previous review cycle.

93. Italy commended Finland for its second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights, its commitment to zero tolerance of hate speech and hate crimes and the measures adopted to prevent and combat violence against women and children.

94. Kazakhstan commended Finland for its commitment to human rights and noted the recent ratification of a number of international human rights instruments, the adoption of the second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights, and the efforts of Finland to enhance its anti-discrimination action.

95. The delegation of Finland provided additional details on the steps it was taking to counter hate speech and hate crime, noting that the police had established a new specialist unit to investigate hate crimes on the Internet and other networks.

96. Finland emphasized that the Act on Equality between Women and Men prohibited gender-based discrimination, including discrimination based on pregnancy or family leave. The Government had appointed a working group in 2017 to address inequality issues. Further information was provided on the Government's basic income experiment, health- and social-care reform, key projects and the Government programme for young people who were not in employment, education or training.

97. The delegation explained that Finland respected the principle of non-refoulement and provided international protection to those in need. As for the asylum process, case officers were trained to conduct interviews in a child-sensitive manner and followed specific guidelines to that end. The asylum authority had also designated a case officer who was specialized in the assessment of the best interest of the child.

98. The delegation elaborated on the stipulations concerning accessibility of public and private buildings and transport for persons with disabilities, including the government decree concerning accessibility of buildings. The Land Use and Building Act provided that a building and its surroundings must, insofar as its use required, be suitable for people whose capacity to move or function was limited. One of the objectives of the Finnish transport policy was to mainstream accessibility into different forms of transport.

99. The head of the delegation concluded by expressing gratitude for the frank and open debate and explained that the government network of contact persons for fundamental and human rights would review the recommendations received, respond to them and follow-up on their implementation. Finnish civil society would be invited to engage in the process, including by identifying priority recommendations and with regard to follow-up. She reiterated her country's strong support for and commitment to the universal periodic review process.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

100. **The following recommendations will be examined by Finland, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council:**

100.1 **Withdraw its reservation to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (South Africa) (Portugal);**

100.2 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines) (Egypt) (Honduras);**

100.3 **Promptly ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) (Guatemala);**

100.4 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Mozambique) (Chile);**

100.5 **Consider ways forward for the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

100.6 **Continue to consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and recognize the competence of its committee (Uruguay);**

100.7 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, recognizing in full the competence of the associated Committee (Portugal);**

100.8 **Speed up the process of accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Mozambique);**

100.9 **Continue with its efforts to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);**

100.10 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (France) (Montenegro) (Italy);**

100.11 **Finalize efforts aimed at acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and thus the full recognition of the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (Ukraine);**

100.12 **In accordance with the commitment made after the universal periodic review of 2012, ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention 1989, (No. 169); and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

100.13 **Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (Armenia);**

100.14 **Ratify the International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) (Mexico);**

100.15 **Engage the Sami people in the ratification process of the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) (Norway);**

100.16 **Consider ratifying the International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) (Peru);**

100.17 **Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

100.18 **Continue its efforts in the implementation of accepted recommendations from the second cycle and consider sharing good practices in that regard (Ireland);**

100.19 **Continue its efforts to further improve its relevant legal and administrative frameworks and policies, in conformity with its international commitments (Hungary);**

100.20 **Consider defining rape as a sexual violation in the Criminal Code, irrespective of the degree of violence used or threatened by the perpetrator (Namibia);**

100.21 **Amend the Criminal Code to no longer define rape according to the degree of violence used by the perpetrator but rather the lack of consent of the victim (Portugal);**

100.22 **Reform the Criminal Code to define rape as a sexual violation, irrespective of the degree of violence used or threatened by the perpetrator (Australia);**

100.23 **Continue strengthening national laws on offences related to violence against women and girls (Botswana);**

100.24 **Amend the appropriate legislation in order to ensure that the definition of rape covers all cases of non-consensual sexual acts (Brazil);**

100.25 **Provide its existing and new national institutions and bodies for the advancement of women and gender equality with adequate human, technical and budgetary resources (Timor-Leste);**

100.26 **Establish a national institution for the advancement of women in accordance with the provisions of the Beijing Platform for Action (Honduras);**

100.27 **Further strengthen its national human rights institutions, especially in the form of greater resource allocation (Pakistan);**

100.28 **Provide the national human rights institution with sufficient resources to carry out its mandate effectively and independently, including the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights (Guatemala);**

100.29 **Ensure that the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman has the necessary information and resources to make decisions related to mandatory deportations, and can ensure that these are carried out respecting the rights of those concerned (Mexico);**

100.30 **Further assist the efforts carried out by the new Non-Discrimination Ombudsman in providing legal protection and remedies against all forms of discrimination (Indonesia);**

100.31 **Continue allocating adequate financial and human resources to effectively implement its national action plan on human rights (Philippines);**

100.32 **Mobilize adequate resources to complete its second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights (Canada);**

100.33 **Sustain and create new platforms for human rights education (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

100.34 **Provide sufficient resources to continue with systematic human rights education and training of teachers at all levels of national education (Slovenia);**

100.35 **Strengthen and enhance existing laws countering different forms of discrimination, racism and xenophobia (Lebanon);**

100.36 **Enhance efforts aimed at the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance by adopting a long-term systematic response to these scourges (South Africa);**

100.37 **Continue its efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and promote equality (Azerbaijan);**

100.38 **Continue its efforts and improve its legal and institutional frameworks for protection against discrimination by ensuring the same level of protection for all grounds of discrimination (State of Palestine);**

100.39 **Consider improving its legal and institutional frameworks for protection against discrimination by ensuring the same level of protection for all grounds of discrimination (Albania);**

100.40 **Step up efforts to improve its legal and institutional frameworks for protection against discrimination (Bulgaria);**

100.41 **Make further efforts to ensure equal protection from discrimination (Hungary);**

100.42 **Adopt a long-term and comprehensive framework to tackle discrimination, racism and xenophobia, focusing both on prevention and on combating human rights violations (Brazil);**

100.43 **Improve access to effective legal remedies for victims of discrimination (Slovenia);**

100.44 **Ensure implementation of comprehensive legislative reform that guarantees the same level of protection for all grounds of discrimination, in particular discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Montenegro);**

100.45 **Continue its efforts in the field of combating and eliminating discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, inter alia, by implementing comprehensive legislative reform that guarantees equal protection from discrimination on all grounds (Albania);**

100.46 **Eliminate, in the case of transsexuals, the requirement of sterilization, medical treatment and a mental health diagnosis in order to complete the process of legal recognition of gender identity (Mexico);**

100.47 **Amend the current Act on the Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals by abolishing the need for sterilization or infertility as a requirement for a person's legal recognition of their gender identity (Netherlands);**

100.48 **Eliminate sterilization as a necessary criterion for the recognition of the gender of transgender persons (Portugal);**

100.49. **Remove the current norm for mandatory sterility to officially register gender reassignment (Spain);**

100.50 **Revise the Trans Act (on the Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals) by abolishing the need for sterilization, other medical treatment and a mental health diagnosis as requirements for a person's legal recognition of their gender identity and ensure that medical procedures performed on intersex infants and children take into account the best interest of the child (Sweden);**

100.51 **Reform legislation to remove the requirement of infertility or sterilization as a condition for the legal recognition of gender reassignment (Australia);**

100.52 **Remove the requirement of infertility or sterilization before an individual may change their gender on legal documents (Canada);**

100.53 **Amend its laws to remove the requirement for sterilization or infertility before recognition of the gender of transsexual persons and further, consider moving to a process allowing persons to self-declare their gender identity (Ireland);**

100.54 **Strengthen prevention and awareness-raising programmes to address xenophobia and violent extremism at the national and subregional levels (Philippines);**

100.55 **Take measures against xenophobia and Islamophobia. Improve the implementation of the existing legal framework for combating racism (Turkey);**

100.56 **Take further steps to eliminate discrimination, racism and xenophobia in the country (Uzbekistan);**

100.57 **Continue strengthening measures against racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia, as well as discrimination against migrants (Chile);**

100.58 **Further combat racial discrimination and xenophobia, and effectively reduce the number of cases of hate crime (China);**

100.59 **Take effective and rapid steps through the enactment of legislation to combat hate speech, Islamophobia and aggressive racist acts, which are increasingly prevalent in society, and ensure their effects are addressed in the long term (Egypt);**

100.60 **Consider improving the implementation of the legal framework for combating racism (Namibia);**

100.61 **Adopt appropriate legislative and policy measures to adjust its legal system and combat and eradicate all forms of discrimination, racism and xenophobia (Honduras);**

100.62 **Continue to introduce effective measures to combat all forms of discrimination, hate speech and hate crime, both online and offline, and ensure that such crimes are effectively investigated (Estonia);**

100.63 **Enhance efforts to curb hate crimes against certain religious communities, ethnic groups and other minorities including indigenous people (India);**

100.64 **Strengthen measures to prevent hate speech and harassment against minority groups and persons with disabilities, in line with the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Radicalization and Extremism (Indonesia);**

100.65 **Ensure that the law enforcement, security and judicial authorities have the necessary knowledge and skills to address hate crimes against immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees by providing mandatory training and guidelines, and amend laws specific to hate crime and hate speech (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

100.66 **Intensify efforts to prevent and combat discrimination against persons with immigration backgrounds (Turkey);**

100.67 **Continue to reinforce the measures of fight against xenophobia, racism and intolerance with regard to migrants and asylum seekers (Angola);**

100.68 **Strengthen measures aimed at fighting against discrimination, racism and xenophobia in the country, especially concerning migrants and asylum seekers (Côte d'Ivoire);**

100.69 **Strengthen efforts to restrict outbreaks of racism and xenophobia, especially manifestations of racism on the Internet (Italy);**

100.70 **Strengthen the fight against xenophobia on social networks and the Internet (Algeria);**

100.71 **Take more effective measures in order to fight, and even to eradicate, crimes and hate speech against minorities, focusing on prevention and following-up these acts (Côte d'Ivoire);**

100.72 **Prevent hate speech on the Internet and intensify the fight against hate crime through the implementation of the National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights and other measures (Cuba);**

100.73 **Take an effective stand against hate speech and aggressive attitudes that are becoming increasingly mainstream (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

100.74 **Ensure that its policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively serve to prevent and address the heightened risk of business involvement in abuses in conflict situations, which include situations of foreign occupation (State of Palestine);**

100.75 **Consider including in its next universal periodic review report information on measures it has taken to analyse potential risk factors of atrocity crimes, including through utilization of the Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes (Rwanda);**

100.76 **Increase State funding for shelter services for victims of violence and especially minorities and vulnerable groups (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

100.77 **Develop a comprehensive and coordinated programme to fight human trafficking, adopt effective measures to prevent and eradicate human trafficking and organize specialized training for law enforcement and immigration officials and other State officials who enter into contact with victims of human trafficking on issues relating to the identification of victims, the conduct of investigations, criminal prosecutions and punishment of perpetrators (Russian Federation);**

100.78 **Continue efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and take effective measures to prevent and eradicate human trafficking and adopt procedures for the determination of the best interests of child victims of trafficking (Turkey);**

100.79 **Develop clear guidelines on how to identify and protect victims of trafficking in persons (United States of America);**

100.80 **Effectively monitor and evaluate the 2016-2017 National Action Plan against Human Trafficking and provide an update in a subsequent universal periodic review report (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

100.81 **Ensure the full implementation of the National Action Plan against Human Trafficking as a means of ensuring the promotion and protection of victims of trafficking (Botswana);**

100.82 **Continue strengthening measures of fighting against domestic violence and human trafficking, including by increasing the number and geographic coverage of reception centres for families and victims (Chile);**

100.83 **Seek to adopt procedures for the determination of the best interests of child victims of trafficking and children of victims, including with a view to strengthening the identification of victims of trafficking, especially women and children (Bulgaria);**

100.84 **Release prisoners detained as conscientious objectors to military service and ensure that civilian alternatives to military service are not punitive or discriminatory and remain under civilian control (Uruguay);**

100.85 **Continue efforts to guarantee the representation in political and public life of women belonging to disadvantaged groups like women with disabilities, ethnic minorities, Roma people and migrants (Colombia);**

100.86 **Provide protection for the family as a natural and basic unit of society (Egypt);**

100.87 **Continue with its structural reforms in social welfare and health care with a focus on protecting the rights of women, children and vulnerable groups (Pakistan);**

100.88 **Redouble its efforts to implement the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, including through the further development of the Equal Pay Programme (South Africa);**

100.89 **Eliminate the persistent wage gap for labour between women and men by eliminating the significant segregation between the genders on the labour market (Russian Federation);**

100.90 **Continue to narrow wage disparities between men and women in line with the country's Equal Pay Programme for 2016-2019 (Sri Lanka);**

100.91 **Effectively provide for the application of laws prohibiting wage discrimination for equal work between men and women (Uzbekistan);**

100.92 **Adopt suitable legislation to combat and punish discrimination on the basis of pregnancy and family leave in the labour market, which provides for reparation for victims (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

100.93 **Take further measures to address discrimination against non-native Finnish citizens in the area of employment, particularly by reducing the wage gap between immigrants and native Finns (Serbia);**

100.94 **Take efforts to strengthen the education system through the provision of mandatory training on human rights education (Maldives);**

100.95 **Continue the action aimed at the promotion of gender equality in all public and private activities (Angola);**

100.96 **Continue to enhance the protection and the rights of women and children (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

100.97 Conduct public awareness campaigns in the media to fight against drug consumption, abusive consumption of alcohol and suicide among young women and girls (Algeria);

100.98 Exert more efforts aiming at the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, particularly in the labour market (Libya);

100.99 Continue the work accomplished to prevent gender-based discrimination, promote equality between women and men and thus improve women's condition, particularly in working life (Cuba);

100.100 Continue its good efforts to address violence against women (Lithuania);

100.101 Ensure proper implementation of policies directed towards combating violence against women, including the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regarding sexual violence (Republic of Moldova);

100.102 Establish a specific action plan to combat gender-based violence with a special system of prevention for this type of violence and also broaden the network of assistance for victims of sexual violence or gender-based violence (Spain);

100.103 Promote gender equality and further combat violence against women (China);

100.104 Take further measures aimed at eradicating violence against women (Georgia);

100.105 Ensure the implementation of measures aimed at combating violence against women (Iceland);

100.106 Strengthen efforts to prevent violence against women (Iraq);

100.107 Continue its efforts aimed at eliminating discrimination and preventing violence against women and children, as well as taking further measures, with a longer-term strategy, aimed at protecting women's rights (Iceland);

100.108 Prepare a national plan with allocated targets to combat violence and discrimination against women and provide access and financial aid to support services, and strengthen cooperation between different government agencies (Islamic Republic of Iran);

100.109 Increase its funding to actors engaged in combating violence and sexual abuse of women (Sweden);

100.110 Implement new measures to ensure victims of rape seek redress, and modify the law to ensure the penalties for rape are more severe (Sierra Leone);

100.111 Carry out a review of criteria for prosecuting cases of rape and sexual assault, to ensure that lack of consent, not only the use of force, is given adequate consideration when bringing cases for prosecution (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

100.112 Consolidate support services for women victims of violence (Republic of Moldova);

100.113 Provide adequate support services to protect victims of domestic and sexual violence (Turkey);

100.114 Continue its efforts to implement the Istanbul Convention by ensuring that it has a sufficient budget, increase the number of shelters for women and children victims of violence, strengthen penalties for rape, improve the training of professionals for better reception of victims and better processing of their complaints (France);

108.115 **Implement the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in order to provide improved protection and assistance to women and children that have become victims of violence (Germany);**

108.116 **Strengthen the measures to combat violence against women as well as support victims and survivors of such violence (India);**

108.117 **Further continue its efforts to combat domestic violence and intensify the implementation of the Government Action Plan for Gender Equality (Mongolia);**

108.118 **Allocate sufficient resources in order to ensure full implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Netherlands);**

108.119 **Provide further support assistance services to better protect victims of domestic violence (Sierra Leone);**

108.120 **Establish a national action plan to address domestic and family violence (Australia);**

108.121 **Establish a national coordination unit and provide adequate resources and other support for the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Canada);**

108.122 **Take further measures to address violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence, especially in the field of prevention (Estonia);**

108.123 **Take all the necessary measures to put an end to violence committed against women and children (Libya);**

108.124 **Reinforce the measures to protect the rights of the child (Georgia);**

108.125 **Provide training on the rights of the child to public officials and civil servants (Timor-Leste);**

108.126 **Bring its legislation on the rights of children during the asylum procedure in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (France);**

108.127 **Establish additional standards to guarantee the swift and appropriate appointment of guardians to unaccompanied minors (Portugal);**

108.128 **In cases when the Finnish authorities decide that the separation of children from their natural family is necessary for the best interests of the child, adopt that measure according to a decision taken by a judicial authority, as required by the provisions of article 9 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Romania);**

108.129 **Expedite the necessary legislative reforms to facilitate the reunification of children with their families (Colombia);**

108.130 **Provide training in the area of the rights of the child for State officials and civil servants at all levels, in particular to prevent cases of the unjustified removal of children from their families (Russian Federation);**

108.131 **Ensure full implementation of laws prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings, including through campaigns to raise awareness among adults and children, as well as the promotion of positive and non-violent forms of discipline that do not affect the upbringing of children (Uruguay);**

108.132 **Review national laws to prohibit the detention of minors (Portugal);**

108.133 **Adopt measures to hold juvenile and adult offenders separately (Russian Federation);**

108.134 **Take measures to separate juvenile detainees from adults in all places of detention (Algeria);**

[redacted] Accompany the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with sufficient funds and concrete indicators through a new national disability policy (VAMPO) that continues the 2010-2015 policy (Spain);

[redacted] Strengthen anti-discrimination legislation to ensure equal access for persons with disabilities to public accommodations, commercial facilities and transportation (United States of America);

[redacted] Continue efforts to promote opportunities for productive and paid employment for persons with disabilities (Colombia);

[redacted] Continue consultations on the rights of persons with disabilities with a view to implementing non-discriminatory policies and legislation (Maldives);

[redacted] Establish and promote culturally sensitive initiatives to provide services for minority groups such as Roma and Sami and for migrants and refugees (Maldives);

[redacted] Consider introducing incentives for better political participation of minorities and immigrants with a view to upholding their integration into society (Serbia);

[redacted] Continue with the policies of inclusion of the Roma population (Peru);

[redacted] Continue its efforts to prevent discrimination against Roma (Timor-Leste);

[redacted] Protect the economic, social and cultural rights of the Sami people from the negative effects that may result from logging and other activities carried out by private agents (Guatemala);

[redacted] Strengthen national efforts to protect migrants and refugees (Iraq);

[redacted] Strengthen social integration policies, especially for migrants (Lebanon);

[redacted] Strengthen the policies related to receiving and the integration of migrants and refugees (Peru);

[redacted] Adopt legislation and policy measures to effectively promote and protect human rights for refugees, migrants and ethnic minorities (China);

[redacted] Continue its efforts to combat discrimination, particularly against migrant workers (Bangladesh);

[redacted] Take urgent measures for the investigation and punishment of acts of hate and discrimination towards migrants, refugees and minorities, and strengthen its awareness-raising programmes for the population in general and for public officials (Argentina);

[redacted] Ensure the effective protection of migrants, particularly women migrant workers, against discrimination (Philippines);

[redacted] Provide the necessary protection for and preserve the dignity of asylum seekers, ensure their access to legal assistance, facilitate family reunification procedures for migrants, and provide them with social security (Egypt);

[redacted] Evaluate the impact of recent changes made to policies and legislations, which seem to restrict the international protection regime for asylum seekers and refugees, and ensure that all persons in need of international protection receive fair treatment and that refugees' rights to reunification are respected (Kazakhstan);

100.153 **Thoroughly and comprehensively review its legislation regarding the granting of asylum and migration in order to align it with its international obligations and standards (Honduras).**

101. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Finland was headed by the Minister of Social Affairs and Health of Finland, Pirkko Mattila, and composed of the following members:

- Ms. Pirkko Mattila, Minister of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health;
- Ms.Terhi Hakala, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Finland, Geneva;
- Ms. Tiina Ullven-Putkonen, Special Adviser to the Minister, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health;
- Mr. Renne Klinge, Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Finland, Geneva;
- Ms. Nina Nordström, Director, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland;
- Ms. Krista Oinonen, Director, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland;
- Ms. Marjatta Hiekka, Legal Counsellor, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland;
- Ms. Janina Hasenson, Legal Counsellor, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland;
- Ms. Katja Koskela, Counsellor, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland;
- Ms. Johanna Suurpää, Director Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Ville Hinkkanen, Senior Adviser, Legislative Affairs, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Veli-Pekka Rautava, Chief Senior Specialist, Ministry of the Interior;
- Ms. Kukka Krüger, Senior Specialist, Ministry of the Interior;
- Ms. Teija Pellikainen, Senior Officer for Legal Affairs, Ministry of Defence;
- Mr. Aki Tornberg, Councellor of Education, Ministry of Education and Culture;
- Ms. Seija Jalkanen, Administrator, Legal Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment;
- Mr. Pasi Korhonen, Director of International Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health;
- Ms. Viveca Arrhenius, Ministerial Counsellor for Social Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health;
- Ms. Maija Iles, Senior Officer of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health;
- Mr. Ville Koponen, Legal Adviser, Ministry of the Environment;
- Ms. Linda Ekholm, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Finland, Geneva;
- Ms. Katariina Tervakangas, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Finland, Geneva;
- Ms. Heini Leppänen, Adviser, Permanent Mission of Finland, Geneva;
- Ms. Kaari Mattila, Member of the Human Rights Delegation, The Finnish League for Human Rights;

- Mr. Markku Jokinen, Member of the Network specializing in Human Rights in the Finnish Foreign Policy, Finnish Association of the Deaf;
- Ms. Saija Kuronen, Sign language interpreter, Finnish Association of the Deaf;
- Ms. Susanna Silberstein, Sign language interpreter, Finnish Association of the Deaf.